

Τμήμα Σχεδιασμού και Τεχνολογίας Ξύλου και Επίπλου

Technological Educational Institution (TEI) of Thessaly Dept. of Wood & Furniture Design and Technology

A higher-education University institution at the Greek academic system Laboratory of Wood Technology (Director: Prof. George Mantanis)

20 Aug. 2013

Karditsa, Greece

Dear Mr. Stratos Psaros

I send you below all the necessary technical information requested:

Wooden Chairs (traditional) made in Greece (as shown in the photos below)

Lower part of a chair (= wooden legs)

In the Greek wood products market, the legs of such wooden chairs are made from European beech wood (Fagus sylvatica), a high density wood of good quality, without defects, usually out of steamed wood so to have a uniform colour. The legs are commonly varnished with aqueous-based varnishes (e.g. light-brown colours) for weather and moisture protection.

Upper part of a chair (= seat, straw mat)

The upper part is hand-made of a knitted mat composed of natural straw *(Typha latifolia)* fibres. This, in Greece is called $\psi a\theta i$ or $\psi \dot{a}\theta a$ or $\tau \dot{\nu}\phi \eta$ (Greek botanical name). It is consisted by a fibre mat which has been knitted altogether, following a traditional east Mediterranean method. The leaves of the straw are collected wet; then naturally dried out in the air. Afterwards they are sold, but before they be knitted are re-wetted to become soft and flexible, and knittable. The information about the upper part of this chair, that is *straw mat*, is given as follows:

- 1. Country of origin: Greece (also, found in all Mediterranean countries)
- 2. Botanical name: Typha latifolia (usually grown in the banks of small rivers)
- 3. Common names: Typha; Cattail; other common names include: Bulrush, Common Bulrush, Great Reedmace, Cooper's reed, Cumbungi.
- 4. Plant parts used (e.g. roots, leaves, flowers): *Leaves (only).* (ref. The leaves of cattail are used to weave baskets and chair seats—backs)

- 5. Fresh or dried form? Dried form, as in the chair (collected wet, and sun or air dried gradually; if left wet, it will be rotted by biological fungi).
- 6. If the straw is mechanically processed and details of process (e.g. crushing or grinding?)- If applicable; *No crushing; no grinding; no chemicals; it is only re-wetted before the knitting process; then, it is naturally air dried.*
- 7. Preparation details (e.g boiled in water at specified temperature for a specified duration- if applicable; *No boiling; no additives; no chemicals used; no machinery; hand-made products of straw mats.*
- 8. Bleaching details (if applicable); Absolutely no bleaching.
- 9. Cleaning methods (if applicable); None.
- 10. Drying and or heating details (if applicable). The mat is dried naturally in the air, and normal climatic conditions. No drying with heating.

These wooden *furniture* products (chairs) are safe, with no chemicals, and possess no hazard for the humans and/or environment and we suggest them as the best of the *so-called traditional chair products* (used in the past in large quantities). Nowadays, in the Greek market are rather rare.

We remain at your disposal.

Best regards

Professor George Mantanis Email mantanis@teilar.gr

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photo 1

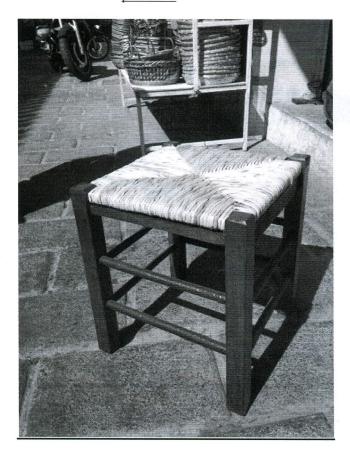


photo 2



J. L. Mynghun